

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-10 and 12-17 are pending. Claims 5 and 11 are cancelled and claims 1 and 9 are amended. Claims 14-17 are new. Support for the amendments to claims 1 and 9 and for new claims 14-17 may be found in the specification as originally filed, for example, in original claims 5 and 11 and in the Examples.

I. The Restriction Requirement and Rejoinder

The Examiner acknowledges Applicants' election without traverse of claims 1-8.

Claim 9 is amended to recite "according to claim 1". Applicants respectfully request rejoinder of the method claims when the product claims are allowed. See MPEP 821.04.

II. The Rejections Based on Sakuma

Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as allegedly being anticipated by Sakuma, U.S. Patent No. 6,794,448 (prior publication date: 09/27/2001; hereinafter "Sakuma").

Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is not anticipated by or obvious over the disclosures of Sakuma and request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this rejection in view of the following remarks.

In claims 1 and 9 the reactive groups of the organic compound (B) are amended to at least one be selected from the group consisting of an epoxy group, an oxazoline group and a carbodiimide group.

Further, in new claims 14 and 16, the reactive groups of the organic compound (B) at least one selected from the group consisting of an epoxy group and a carbodiimide group.

Further, in new claims 15 and 17, the reactive groups of the organic compound (B) are at least one selected from the group consisting of a carbodiimide group.

Sakuma discloses a diamine as a crosslinking agent to be reacted with glycidyl groups on the resin particles. This diamine corresponds to organic compound (B). However, Sakuma does not disclose or suggest a crosslinking agent having a functional group other than an amino group. Applicants' claims recite the reactive groups of the organic compound (B) are amended to be selected from the group consisting of an epoxy group, an oxazoline group and a carbodiimide group.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. §1.111
Application No. 10/527,636
Attorney Docket No. 043198

For the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of claims 1-8 is neither taught by nor made obvious from the disclosures of Sakuma and it is requested that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

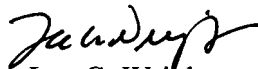
III. Conclusion

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that their claimed invention is allowable and ask that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 be reconsidered and withdrawn. Applicants respectfully submit that this case is in condition for allowance and allowance is respectfully solicited.

If any points remain at issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the local exchange number listed below.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,
WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP


Lee C. Wright

Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 41,441
Telephone: (202) 822-1100
Facsimile: (202) 822-1111

LCW/af